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Tuesday, March 31, 1959

Arrived at office at 8:45 and poked my nose into several alcoves.

Lunched in the Secretary's dining-room with Chris Herter, Livie Merchant, Bob Murphy, von Brentano, Grewe and van Scherpenberg. Brentano gave tongue on questions regarding which the Chancellor had expressed concern.

I saw President Eisenhower this afternoon and spent three-quarters of an hour with him. He looked ~~very~~ well, and seemed completely relaxed. His skin was pink and unwrinkled, his eyes sparkled, and altogether he exuded charm and confidence.

He said the substantive duties of his office were obviously of a nature requiring grave decisions. But even more of his time was occupied by visits of groups of people, demanding, sometimes because of curiosity, but more frequently for reasons of organizational or personal prestige, to see him, or be seen with him. He had tried to reduce these occasions to a minimum, but without real success.

We talked quite lengthily about Berlin, and he affirmed his belief that the determination to use our nuclear power, if necessary, to maintain our position there, was the best way to influence the Soviets to be reasonable. He asked whether Adenauer showed any signs of senility. I answered that I had detected none.

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